

think they view themselves as a set of human brake pads, and they keep their foot on the brake—and good for them. Except that what we have now is a need to put interest rates back where they ought to be for producers and farmers and others, given the fact that overall inflation is down at 1.7 percent over the last twelve months and only 1.5 percent since the beginning of this year.

Today's announcement was that the Producer Price Index for finished good in August fell 0.4 percent. This means that producer prices have fallen 1.6 percent over the past twenty months. All these numbers augur very hard for the Federal Reserve Board to do something that some suggest they are not prepared to do. I ask Fed Chairman Greenspan and others to see if they can't do what some people now don't expect them to do, but do the right thing: On September 29, we reduce those interest rates.

Several of us in Congress are considering offering at least a sense-of-the-Congress resolution to send a message to the Fed. Who knows whether it will get through the door there, but at least send a message to say here is what we think. Interest rates have a significant impact on virtually every family in America, on every producer, business and farmer in this country. And my hope is that at the end of this month, given the uncertainty we face in the world, given the numbers from the last quarter here in this country showing a slowing of our economy, and given the historical low rate of inflation and the fact that we are now overpaying because of the Federal Funds Rate, the Federal Reserve Board will finally do the right thing.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROGER WILLIAMS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today in tribute to a great Utah man of science, Dr. Roger R. Williams, whose life came to a tragic end last Wednesday in the horrific crash of Swissair Flight 111.

Tomorrow, Dr. Williams' remarkable life will be celebrated at a memorial service in Salt Lake City.

In the wake of this solemn occasion, I ask that my colleagues pause for a few moments in remembrance of those husbands and wives, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters who perished in this terrible crash.

(Moment of silence.)

Like Dr. Williams, each had abundant potential which was so unfairly cut short.

Dr. Roger Williams was known throughout the world, not only as a distinguished professor of internal medicine at the University of Utah, but also as a leading expert in the field of cardiovascular genetics.

In fact, at the time of his death, our Utah scientist was on his way to Gene-

va to chair an international panel of the World Health Organization, which is working to promote the prevention of premature death through early diagnosis of genetic cholesterol abnormalities.

Dr. Williams was the founder and director of the University of Utah's Cardiovascular Genetics Research Clinic, which fosters collaborative investigations involving numerous fields of medicine.

He was the author of more than 200 professional publications and a frequent chair of National Institutes of Health advisory committees.

But what I remember most about Dr. Williams was his abundant spirit, his tremendous enthusiasm for life and for his work, an exuberance that was virtually impossible not to get caught up in.

I can recall many occasions when he visited my office to educate, cajole—and even plead—for an enhanced Federal commitment to research on the genetic basis of familial cholesterol problems.

In fact, earlier this year, Dr. Williams' and I began work to design a program leading to the diagnosis and treatment of the unmet needs of many thousands of persons with strong familial predisposition to preventable early deaths.

It is ironic that Dr. Williams' promising research was so abruptly halted by his own premature death.

Mr. President, I am grateful for these opportunities to have worked with such a fine man, a man who did so much for our State, our country, and indeed, the world at large.

Dr. Roger Williams will truly be missed—not only because of his contributions to science and medicine, which brought him international acclaim—but also because he was simply a good, decent man who always wanted to be fair.

It is hard to forget a statement made by his son last week that captured the true essence of Roger Williams.

Tom Williams remarked that his father was known to say "If you wouldn't do it for the guy on the bottom, you can't do it for the guy on the top."

I think we can all learn a valuable lesson from the life and work of Roger Williams, a man who always lived his life with the highest possible integrity and kindness, a man who regarded his happy marriage and seven children as his most important accomplishment and responsibility.

Dr. Williams' passage is a tremendous loss to the State of Utah, the world of medical research, and to all those who knew him and knew him well.

My heart goes out to his wife Linda, to his children, and to his extended family, including his colleagues, during what I know is a most difficult time. They will all be in our thoughts and prayers.

We know that they will be blessed because of the lives that they live as well.

This was a great man, a person who had unlimited potential. It is hard to understand why a life like this—indeed lives like all the others on that plane—were snuffed out. The fact of the matter is that, believing in a life hereafter and believing that there is a God who rewards people for the works that they do on this Earth, I have no doubt that Roger Williams will be with our Father in Heaven as one of his chosen people. It is my prayer all the passengers on flight 111 will be as well.

I personally express my gratitude and appreciation for what Roger Williams has meant to this country, what he has meant to the University of Utah, what he has meant to our State, and what he has meant to so many other persons.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 4TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute has reported that for the week ending September 4 that the U.S. imported 8,549,000 barrels of oil each day, 998,000 barrels a day more than the 7,551,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 57.2 percent of their needs last week. There are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States imported about 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

All Americans should ponder the economic calamity certain to occur in the U.S. if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.: now 8,549,000 barrels a day at a cost of approximately \$100,963,690 a day.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, September 10, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,545,657,954,586.91 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-five billion, six hundred fifty-seven million, nine hundred fifty-four thousand, five hundred eighty-six dollars and ninety-one cents).

One year ago, September 10, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,410,105,000,000 (Five trillion, four hundred ten billion, one hundred five million).

Five years ago, September 10, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,384,113,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred eight-four billion, one hundred thirteen million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 10, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$459,532,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-nine billion, five hundred thirty-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,545,657,954,586.91 (Five trillion, five